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Identical letters dated 6 April 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

I should like to draw your attention to the continuing efforts to alter the facts and mislead international public opinion regarding the crisis that has been going on in Syria for more than four years. Specifically, some have denied that the primary cause of the crisis in Syria is terrorism and the attacks committed by terrorist groups, at the exhortation of certain States, against innocent civilians who reside in peaceful cities, villages and neighbourhoods, and against their property. The terrorists have destroyed and plundered peaceful cities, villages and neighbourhoods, and killed and abducted their residents in order to terrorize and subjugate their peaceful civilian populations. This has led to the mass movement of persons seeking security and safety to areas under State control.

Bab Umar in the city of Homs, Raqqah city and its surrounding villages, Adra al-Ummaliyah, Ma'lulah in Rif Dimashq governorate, Shaykh Miskin in Dar'a governorate, Kasab in Ladhiqiyah governorate, the villages of Hasakah governorate and other places have witnessed those groups' barbarism and inhumanity. Those areas were known as being safe and stable, until they were attacked by mercenary and terrorist groups, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam and the Levant Front, as well as other terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida. There are some who continue to refer to those terrorist groups as the "moderate armed opposition", despite the disgusting crimes against humanity they have committed.

For more than a year and a half after the start of the crisis, the city of Aleppo had managed to maintain its stability and security and preserve the safety of its citizens. In that period, there was no mass exodus from the city and no destruction. The situation in that city changed, however, when armed terrorist groups overran it at the behest of certain countries that claim they are the "friends of the Syrian people". Thanks to their friendship, the residents of Aleppo have been killed, starved, displaced and deprived of water, electricity, food and shelter, and the city's resources and property have been plundered and looted, as documented in the reports of the United Nations Secretariat.

In peaceful Hasakah governorate, the lives of its peaceful civilians were turned into a bloody nightmare when terrorists groups raided dozens of villages. The terrorists abducted and took captive civilians, including thousands of children and women, displaced more than 690 families and attacked houses of worship, including the historic church of Tall Harmaz, one of the oldest churches in the world, which they set on fire.

A few days ago, thousands of terrorists from the Nusrah Front, which, according to some, is a moderate group, attacked the peaceful cities of Busra al-Sham and Idlib, after they had hurled thousands of rockets at the residents of those peaceful cities over the course of several days. The terrorists stormed peaceful neighbourhoods and committed the most horrific crimes against civilians, forcing thousands of families to flee their peaceful neighbourhoods and head to areas under the control of the Syrian State and the national army. Those families fled in order to seek security and safety, and escape reprisal at the hands of the terrorists. In response to these humanitarian emergencies, the Syrian Arab Army has evacuated civilians, while Syrian ministries and Government institutions have assiduously sought to provide the displaced with shelter, food and various other forms of relief assistance. Preliminary reports indicate that, to date, the criminal attack against Idlib city has resulted in the displacement of approximately 30,000 persons, including 10,000 children. The terrorists also completely destroyed Idlib Hospital.

These terrorist crimes have intensified the forced movement of thousands of civilians to safe areas under State control, as they seek to escape the humanitarian situation in the areas from which they were displaced. That displacement has increased the burden on the Syrian State and its various institutions, as well as the responsibilities and burdens of United Nations and international humanitarian organizations. In that connection, it is absolutely certain that the States that support, finance and sponsor the armed terrorist groups and shed crocodile tears for Syrians are responsible for increasing that burden.

The Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp was recently beset by tragedy when ISIL, in cooperation with the Nusrah Front terrorist organization, entered the camp. This action attests to what we have warned against all these years, and reveals the truth about the alliance between Israel and those terrorist groups, the aim of which is to snuff out the just cause of the Palestinian people, as the Israeli Prime Minister stated in his election campaign.

Certain States and actors continue to support terrorism and persist in devising confusing precedents and terms, including the morally inexcusable expression "moderate armed opposition", in order to legalize violence, killing and interference in internal Syrian affairs. Their conduct, the goals and purposes of which are now clear, is unprecedented in the history of international relations and international law. Those who take on the role of the political opposition must be peaceful and abide by the law and regulations. Their struggle must be one of ideas and words, and they must build the State and its institutions. Anyone who bears arms must do so in accordance with the law and the regulations in force.

Contrary to the claims and accusations that are brought to the attention of United Nations organizations or, unfortunately, sometimes made by United Nations officials, all of the measures that the Syrian Government takes in response to these acts of terrorism stem from its awareness of its constitutional and legal responsibility to respond to the crimes being committed by terrorist groups that are

armed and funded by foreign actors. The picture is now clear and the falsehood of the claims and accusations that some parties make has been revealed. The sole aim of those parties is to destroy Syria by any means, including by distorting and inverting facts and employing terrorism to achieve their goal.

The Syrian Government affirms that it will continue to wage its war against terrorism. It is also determined to stem the dangers and horrors of terrorism, with a view to defending the citizens of Syria and their honour and in order to respond to the attack against the capacities of the country and its people. Syria once again calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to combat terrorism and address its root causes, and to halt the financing of terrorism. It also calls on the Council to renounce double standards in the fight against terrorism by implementing its resolutions on counter-terrorism, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). The Council should furthermore take stern measures against those States that support and finance terrorism. The regimes of those States, including Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, are the terrorist organizations' partners in spilling the pure blood of the Syrian people. Laxity on the part of the Security Council in that regard will encourage the terrorist groups and the States that back them to continue their transgressions and further threaten peace and security in Syria and at the regional and international levels.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.